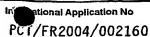
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



PCT/FR2004/002160 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61B17/70 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61B A61F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° Relevant to claim No. X EP 1 138 268 A (COUSIN BIOTECH; TAYLOR, 1 JEAN) 4 October 2001 (2001-10-04) column 2, line 55 - column 4, line 57 12 - 14Υ FR 2 822 051 A (SPINE NEXT) 12-14 20 September 2002 (2002-09-20) cited in the application page 6, line 30 - page 9, line 3 Α FR 2 799 640 A (SPINE NEXT) 1 - 1420 April 2001 (2001-04-20) page 4, line 28 - page 7, line 10 Α FR 2 714 591 A (EUROS SA) 1 - 147 July 1995 (1995-07-07) page 3, line 19 - page 4, line 14 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. *&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 17 February 2005 24/02/2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,

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Introductional Application No PCT/FR2004/002160

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